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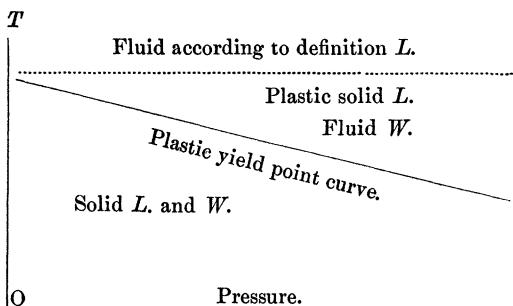


Figure illustrating varying conceptions, as to where the line between fluid and solid should be drawn.

Neither definition is absolutely rigorous, perhaps. It may be that every fluid can rest under a very minute amount of strain, and that every solid has plasticity.

*No discussion of facts can settle usage*, so I call for others, either here or in the scientific meetings, to express themselves as to what usage will best fit that of the past and present, and be most practical for the future.

ALFRED C. LANE

#### A CORRECTION

To THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: To a communication by the writer, which appeared in SCIENCE for January 18, 1907, the name of the U. S. Geological Survey was attached without authority of the director. The writer wishes to record his disavowal of any desire to commit the survey to an indorsement of the sentiments expressed in said note. For these he alone is responsible. In explanation he would add that the note was written before the writer became a member of the U. S. Geological Survey. It was not offered for publication, however, until about the time he was planning to enter on field work, when his new address was attached without due consideration.

Moreover, on deliberate reading, the writer is conscious that unintentionally there appears to be in the language employed a tone of courtesy, which he regrets.

C. H. GORDON

January 22, 1907

#### SPECIAL ARTICLES

##### THE CASE OF ANASA TRISTIS

IN a paper read before the December meeting of the American Society of Zoologists in New York, illustrated by a very beautiful series of photomicrographs taken from smear-preparations, Miss Foot and Miss Strobell announced the following conclusions, which have since been published in a preliminary form in the January number of the *Biological Bulletin*: (1) There is no odd or 'accessory' chromosome in *Anasa tristis*. (2) The number of spermatogonial chromosomes is 22. (3) All the chromosomes divide in both maturation divisions. The so-called odd or accessory chromosome is only a 'lagging' chromosome, and it divides with the others in the second division. (4) The so-called 'chromosome-nucleolus' of the growth period is not a chromosome, but a nucleolus.

These results are at variance with my own, and since the differences in regard to the first three involve the important more general issue of the relation of the chromosomes to sex-production, I will make the following reply.

The fourth of the above conclusions, though materially different from my own, is not altogether irreconcilable with it. I have for some time had reason to suspect (in case of certain other genera) that a stage may have been overlooked in the prophases in which the odd chromosome temporarily loses its compact nucleolus-like form. For the study of this question smear-preparations offer decided advantages; and I am ready enough to admit that in regard to these stages Miss Foot and Miss Strobell may have made an important addition to our knowledge, though I still believe that the chromosome-nucleolus of the earlier stages is the odd chromosome. On the other and more vital points their results are irreconcilable with my own, and only these will further be considered here.

Since the announcement of these results I have carefully reexamined my old preparations (including those of Paulmier) and a series of new ones from material collected during the past summer. They include sections of material fixed in Flemming's, Her-